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❖THE❖OLD❖TESTAMENT❖STUDENT.❖

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IT is not improper, we think, to refer editorially to the fact that on and after July 1st the subscription price of THE STUDENT will be advanced to one dollar and fifty cents a year. An earnest effort has been made to maintain the old price. It has been found impracticable. The subscription list, it is true, has been greatly increased during the past year; but the rate of subscription has been so low as not to allow a sufficient margin for improving the contents. And yet the constituency is so large and of such a character as to make such improvement necessary. Besides, the amount of material to be furnished in the coming volume requires an increase in the number of pages. We are confident that, under these circumstances, the friends of the journal, who now number many thousands, will raise no objection to the change in price. For six years the journal has been published at a loss, each year, of six to eight hundred dollars. From this time forward it must pay its way. Shall it not have the sympathy and support of those who believe in the work which it is trying to accomplish?

A YEAR ago the announcement was made of a series of Inductive Bible-studies. With this number the last of the series is published. We have sometimes doubted the propriety of giving so large an amount of space each month to material which was intended for study rather than for reading. But the multitude of testimonies received from those who have made an earnest study of this material has convinced us that no mistake has been made. Scores of institutions, hundreds of Bible-classes have done their work during the past year upon the basis of these "studies." The course has been a long one; a large amount of ground has been covered; perhaps too much material has been introduced; yet the results have been far greater and far more satisfactory than could possibly have been anticipated.

IN the symposium on the question of publishing a portion of the Hexateuch in different kinds of type, there will be found an expression of different views. The opinions published are but a few of the whole number which have been received by the editor. Notwithstanding the desire (of so many subscribers) thus forcibly expressed, the request will not be granted, (1) because the space at command will not permit the work to be done with the thoroughness which the subject demands; (2) because a large portion of the constituency of THE STUDENT are not in a position to be profited by such a presentation; (3) because the time has not yet come when even such a journal as THE STUDENT can take up and present such material with impunity.

In order, however, to meet in some measure, the demand which prevails so widely, there will be published in July *Hebraica* a detailed analysis of the Hexateuch, in parallel columns, in which there will be given not only the chapters and verses by sections as they are divided by critics, but also the topics of which each section treats.

ONE of the most remarkable phenomena in modern literary annals is the rapid spread of the Hebrew translation of the New Testament by Franz Delitzsch, published by the British and Foreign Bible Society. In less than ten years over sixty thousand copies of the work have been disposed of. The greater number have been distributed among the Jews of the Austrian Empire and South Russia. Of late years, starting from Tomsk, it has gone upon its mission to the very eastern borders of Siberia. Within the past year it has started on a westward course also. The emigrant missionaries at Liverpool and more especially in New York, have found readers among the emigrating Jews for hundreds of copies. Stations have been established at Baltimore and Chicago. The book is also being eagerly taken by people living around the Sea of Tiberias, and in Stockholm it has found many friends.

A RECENT writer remarks, with strong tones of condemnation, that there can be nothing "colder than the intellectual study of the Scriptures." Is this true? Does the writer suppose that the divine revelation in the Scriptures contains only spiritual truth and that there is nothing in the Bible demanding mental application of the highest sort? Does God reveal himself as spirit and not mind? The truth is that the intellectual study of the Scriptures is, or ought to be, stimulating in the highest degree; and that because of the stupendous importance of

the subjects which it takes up. What questions of philosophy are more burning than those connected with the truths of the Bible? Where do the finer questions of historical criticism and of interpretation have a broader field for operation than in connection with the Scriptures? The very fact that the central purpose of the various books is practical gives the abstract questions which they arouse a more vital interest. Is not this proven by the vast number of books that have been written about the merely intellectual questions involved in the study of the Bible? Many of these subjects have been presented again and again, and yet every new generation of Bible students returns to them with renewed zest. And every person who studies the Bible deeply at all, sees that the intellectual questions are not so far from the centre of scriptural truth as to be lifeless and uninteresting, but all contribute light to the better understanding of the great principles revealed in the Bible.

Further, this sort of study has value and interest because the views which one may hold on these subjects affects often his power of influencing others to accept Christianity. There are not a few to-day who are turned away from the Christian church by the misconceptions imparted to them from those whose lack of a profounder knowledge of the Bible, leads them into mistaken notions which a little of this "cold, intellectual study" would have taught them to avoid. The position assumed by our uncritical but warm hearted contemporary is one which has done and is doing incalculable injury. Too many intelligent Christian people are infected with it. To the consideration of any other subject they will bring a scholarly and critical mind, but when they take up the Bible, they seem to think that the use of their mental powers for any scientific work is almost blasphemy, and thus they refuse to employ their God-given faculties for the understanding of revealed truth. If, on the contrary, Christians were taught that these mental questions were vital and important, there would be accomplished a far larger amount of vigorous Bible study; and there would exist a far stronger phase of Christianity. The time has come when men no longer want milk, not to speak of "slop" (an unpleasant term, but one which describes accurately a certain widely prevailing kind of Bible-instruction), but *meat*. Let us cast aside the idea that intellectual work is detrimental to a spiritual comprehension of the Scriptures. This idea, however widely it may be held, however zealously it may be taught, is an idea begotten of the evil one himself, and propagated by those whom he has blinded to the truth.